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Social development

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Promotion and protection of human rights

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

Letter dated 30 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter dated 26 February 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which was circulated as a document of the General Assembly (A/61/769), it should hardly be necessary to point out that fundamental human rights are guaranteed under the Japanese Constitution and that the charges made in the letter are therefore groundless. I would like to express regret that such allegations should once again have been circulated against Japan and to offer the following response.

The Government of Japan has taken what it regards as the necessary and appropriate steps to enable Korean residents in Japan to lead stable lives, including granting them the appropriate legal status to stay in Japan and improving conditions that affect their lives. At the same time, Japanese investigative authorities respond on the basis of solid evidence when illegal acts are committed, regardless of the nationality of those committing them, in strict conformity with the laws and regulations of the country. The measures taken with regard to the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, referred to in the letter, were likewise conducted in a just and fair manner, in strict conformity with the relevant laws and regulations. There is therefore no basis for the claims made by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of an "intensification of suppression" of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan or of Korean residents generally.

Regarding the allegation that "Japanese authorities" arranged for the media to issue false reports, in an open and democratic society where freedom of expression and freedom of the press are fully guaranteed along with other freedoms, it is impossible for the Japanese Government to control media coverage of any subject, and it is therefore clear that it made no such effort in this instance.

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With regard to Japan's efforts on the reform of the Security Council, its position and aspirations are well known through a number of statements made in the United Nations and elsewhere, and it will continue to make positive and constructive contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 60, 65, 67 and 111.

(*Signed*) Kenzo **Oshima**
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations